

# SECURITY NEWS

SECURITY NEWS & INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS • VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

## OUR COMMITMENT

Our business is service. We exist to assist you in solving your problems.

Our staff is trained to help you maintain your security while providing cost effective solutions to new problems as they arise.

Each member of our team is dedicated to ongoing development of their knowledge and understanding loss prevention systems.

If you are faced with a security problem, whether it is large or small, we would like to assist you by providing a responsible and effective solution.

## SECURITY MANAGEMENT

### What You Need To Know to Protect Your Business From ADA Lawsuits

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law in January 1990 and went into full effect in January 1992. This law effects every employer, not only in hiring practices, but how your business is accessible to the disabled. If you think disabled people are rare you are mistaken. Right now, there are approximately 43 million disabled Americans.

#### *Your Business Must Be Accessible*

The passage of ADA mandated renovations to all existing structures by January 26, 1993. Businesses such as hospitals, schools, banks, hotels, high-rise housing, manufacturers, personal and business service and retailers are all required to comply.

#### *ADA Law Suits Increase*

In the first year alone more than 12,000 charges of ADA violations were filed and the amount has increased every year since. "The ADA's scope is far greater than what was publicized when the act was passed," wrote the editors of "Preventive Strategies for Employers," a newsletter published by the law firm of Jackson, Lewis, Schnitzler & Krupman. "The statistics also illustrate that most ADA complaints have 'hidden

impairments.' As a result, employers may fail to recognize or underestimate potential ADA exposure."

#### *Barriers Indicate Non Compliance*

If it hasn't already, the ADA will affect your business and the most obvious indicator of non-ADA compliance is the access barriers to your facility. The ADA has listed some requirements with regard to all door openings.

#### *• Door Hardware*

The ADA specifies that handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other devices are to have a shape that is easy to grasp with one hand and does not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist to operate. U-shaped handles, lever operated and

push type mechanisms are all acceptable designs.

#### *• Door Closers*

The ADA also specifies the maximum force for pushing or pulling open doors. Weak or improperly installed door closers often require far more effort than the ADA allows.

#### *Call Us For More Information*

ADA requirements effect both large and small businesses alike. If you would like to know more about ADA and how you can bring your door hardware up to

